

President's Column: 'Just do it'

Congratulations to all graduates! Whether it's from high school, college or getting an advanced degree, finishing one thing and looking forward to starting anew is an exciting place to be. While the economy is not necessarily in the best place now to offer as much as it has in the past, there are many possibilities to be explored. The phrase, "Just do it" should be every graduate's rallying cry. And this doesn't apply only to graduates.

Communications is a broad field, ripe with possibilities. If you find yourself dreading one more press release to write or clock to punch, take a chance and learn something new. Update your skills, add new ones to your portfolio, take a class, graduate to a different level of learning. Re-brand yourself. Being a part of an organization such as the Wichita Professional Communicators, Kansas Professional Communicators and the National Federation of Press Women is one of the ways you can keep up and stay ahead. Through all of these organizations you can learn new skills, meet interesting people and be involved. It's up to you how much though.

This month, meet one of our very own members who has stepped out and up. Listen as B.D. Tharp tells us how she got her book published and what it's like to join the ranks of published book authors. And next month, take advantage of our annual summer mixer, July 14, to network and get to know others in this exciting field. Graduating is great but don't let the learning stop. Just do it!

— Beth Bower

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June 2 luncheon: Publishing a novel



Most writers have a dream to publish a book. WPC member B.D. Tharp recently realized that dream when her novel, "Feisty Family Values," set in Wichita, was published. Tharp will talk about the writing and publishing experience during the next Wichita Professional Communicators luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 2, at Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas.

Tharp, a lifetime resident of the Midwest, graduated magna cum laude from Wichita State with a degree in communications, women/minority studies and fine arts. She's a frequent contributing writer to a number of publications, including Women's Focus Magazine, Active Aging, the Wichita Register Magazine, East Wichita News and others. She's a local, state, and national award winner in short stories, children's stories, articles, playwriting, novels and prose.

Please RSVP to Becky Funke **no later than noon Tuesday, June 1**, at bfunke@activeagingonline.com, call 316-942-5385, or reserve and prepay with PayPal at www.wichitaprofessionalcommunicators.com. Remember, the RSVP and cancellation deadline is firm; if you are unable to attend you will be invoiced for your luncheon.

DATE: Wednesday, June 2
TIME: 11:30 a.m. *sharp*-12:30 p.m.
PLACE: Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas
COST: Members \$12, students \$10, guests \$15

Reservations/cancellations required:
E-mail Becky Funke **by noon, Tuesday, June 1**, at bfunke@activeagingonline.com or call 942-5385. To prepay online using PayPal, visit the WPC Web site.

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Bring new, like-new books for scholarship drawings



WPC is accepting donations of new or like-new books for the scholarship drawings held at the monthly luncheon meetings. Luncheon participants purchase \$1 tickets for the chance to win a book. The ticket sales benefit the WPC scholarship fund.

If you have books to donate, just bring them with you to the monthly luncheon meeting.

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Save-the-date for the WPC summer mixer July 14

Mark your calendars for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 14. That's when the annual WPC summer mixer will be held at the home of Adriene Rathbun, 158 N. Roosevelt. It's always a good time to enjoy great food and network with others. Please remember to invite potential members, as well.

There will be a silent auction so please think about donating items for this activity, which benefits the WPC scholarship fund.

More details will be provided in an invitation coming to your e-mail boxes in mid-June.



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Member News

Les Anderson has published a collection of his columns, "More or les," written for The Ark Valley News, a local paper he and his wife, Nancy, originally founded. The book is helping raise funds for the Valley Center library. His next book signing is 1-3 p.m. Saturday, June 5, at Best of Times, 6452 E. Central.

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Kennedy** on her retirement from Arts Partners.

Pat MacDonald was awarded the first Dr. Doren Fredrickson Commitment to Public Health Award, which recognizes an individual who has shown a lifetime commitment to public health in Sedgwick County. MacDonald spent three decades with the Wichita-Sedgwick County Community Health Department before retiring in 2003, and remains active in public health issues.

Wilma Moore-Black was elected president of the Kansas Professional Communicators for the upcoming year at the KPC annual conference in mid-April. Other WPC members serving KPC this coming year will be **Jill Miller** as vice president-membership, and **Becky Funke** as treasurer.

Carreen Simon has a new position in marketing for Bold Software.

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WPC Programs & Calendar • Year 2010-11

- June 2: WPC luncheon featuring novelist BD Tharp, 11:30 a.m. at Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas
- June 8: WPC board meeting, noon at Watermark, 4701 E. Douglas
- July 13: WPC board meeting, noon at Watermark, 4701 E. Douglas
- July 14: Summer WPC mixer, 6:30 p.m., Rathbun residence, 158 N. Roosevelt
- Aug. 26-28: NFPW conference in Chicago

WPC offers professional development and major networking opportunities for working communicators, freelancers and career-directed students. Membership is open to any person who is paid as a communicator. We welcome visitors to our monthly luncheon meetings. Members \$12, students \$10, all others \$15. Check in and pay at the WPC table inside the banquet room, or prepay with PayPal on the WPC Web site. Members: please leave your name tag with Teresa Veazey, membership chair.

RESERVATIONS, CANCELLATIONS REQUIRED

E-mail bfunke@activeagingonline.com or call 942-5385 *no later than noon on Monday* before each luncheon meeting. You're responsible for your reservation or cancellation. **If you reserve a spot but do not attend, you are still responsible for paying for lunch.** If you don't have a reservation but wish to attend the meeting, we'll try to give you a seat but do not plan to eat. Meetings begin promptly at 11:30 a.m. If you've reserved a meal but haven't arrived by 11:45 a.m., your plate may be sold.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

WPC Professional: \$138 (Includes membership in National Federation of Press Women, Kansas Professional Communicators and Wichita Professional Communicators)
WPC Local: \$50 (Membership in WPC only)
WPC Student: \$35 (Includes membership in NFPW, KPC and WPC)
WPC Emeritus: One-time payment of \$105 for KPC plus \$20 annually for NFPW (no additional WPC dues necessary). Make payment to WPC.

COMM LINKS

Wichita Professional Communicators: www.wichitaprofessionalcommunicators.com
Kansas Professional Communicators Web site: www.kansasprofessionalcommunicators.org
National Federation of Press Women site: www.nfpw.org

2010 WPC Board

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